

PLEASE SUBSTITUTE THIS AMENDED CLAIM FOR THE CLAIM IN APPLICATION #10/656,960.

AMENDED CLAIM

I claim:

- 1) A tie down strap, comprising: a ratchet, having a first end and a second end; a strap, having a first elongate portion with a first end and a second end and having a second elongate portion with a first end and a second end; the first and second elongate portions being joined to the ratchet; at least one guide joined to the ratchet; the guide including a first elongate and a second elongate cooperatively defining a groove, the groove being of sufficient size such that the strap fits within the groove when the strap is wrapped about the ratchet; and means for retaining the strap within the groove, the retaining means including a pair of lips on the first and second elongate portions of the guide.